

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 /066 W

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O R 031223Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6142

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 6348

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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DEPT PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR KEATING

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TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI WASHINGTON BASED PRESS APRIL 3
CONTINUES TO GIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO USG MIDDLE EAST
POLICY REASSESSMENT, REPORTS OF US "PRESSURE" FOR MORE
FLEXIBLE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING POSITION, AND IMPLICATIONS
FOR US-ISRAELI RELATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. BLITZER, IN JERUSALEM POST AND ALSO AL HAMISHMAR,
WRITES THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS BEGUN ORCHESTRATING
PRESSURE CAMPAIGN TO FORCE GOI TO MODIFY ITS POLITICAL
DEMANDS FOR ANOTHER NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT. SENIOR US
OFFICIALS ARE LETTING IT BE KNOWN BOTH PUBLICLY AND
PRIVATELY THAT ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO ADOPT MORE FLEXIBLE
POSITIONS IN NEXT NEGOTIATIONS, WHETHER AT GENEVA OR OTHER
LOCATION. DEFSEC SAID EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT USG WOULD
BE RELUCTANT TO ENTER INTO NEW ARMS AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL
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UNTIL REASSESSMENT IS COMPLETED, A PROCESS WHICH "INFORMED

SOURCES" SPECULATE COULD TAKE 60-90 DAYS. WHILE ALLBRANCHES OF USG ARE PARTICIPATING IN REASSESSMENT, SECRETARY KISSINGER IS EXPECTED TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN SHAPING THIS POLICY. BLITZER NOTES THAT ON APRIL 1 SECRETARY MET WITH FORMER US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE CONSIDERED " EITHER EVEN-HANDED OR WORSE" BY US JEWISH LEADERS. ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON WERE CONCERNED OVER SECRETARY'S WARNINGS TO GOI BEFORE LAST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS THAT IT WOULD COME UNDER SUBSTANTIAL PRESSURE FROM LEADING US PERSONALITIES IF TALKS COLLAPSED, A PREDICTION WHICH SECRETARY HIMSELF SEEMS TO BE ATTEMPTING TO FULFILL. BLITZER ALSO NOTES REPORT OF NY TIMES DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT GWERTZMAN THAT SECRETARY WAS ASKING CANADA, WEST GERMANY AND NETHERLANDS GOVERNEMENTS TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE ISRAEL TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE, ADDING THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS DENIED THE STORY. US JEWISH COMMUNITY IS REPORTEDLY " QUITE EDGY" AND PREPARED TO "GO PUBLIC" AGAINST ADMINISTRATION IF PRESSURES CONTINUE TO MOUNT.

3. BARNEA IN DAVAR (IN ADDITION TO REPEATING ABOVE POINTS) NOTES THAT SECRETARY HAS ALSO MET WITH RABBI MILLER AND MAX FISHER REPRESENTING US JEWISH COMMUNITY, WHO NOTED THAT SECRETARY AT THIS STAGE WAS NOT PROPOSING SOLUTIONS, EXCEPT FOR THE "REALIZATION" THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO CONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THAT " SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY" WILL NOT BE RESUMED. KISSINGER ALSO TOLD JEWISH LEADERS THAT HE IS NOT SEEKING CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL, IS NOT ANTI-ISRAELI AND HAS NO INTENTIONS OF BLAMING ISRAEL FOR FAILURE OF THE TALKS. IF ISRAEL WANTS CONTINUATION OF US INITIATIVE, HOWEVER, SHE MUST SHOW MORE FLEXIBILITY. ALTHOUGH NO DISCUSSION WAS HELD RE POSSIBLE VISIT BY ISRAELI SENIOR MINISTER TO WASHINGTON, " IT IS ASSUMED" THAT THIS WILL TAKE PLACE TOWARDS END OF APRIL.

4. MARGALIT(HAARETZ) WRITES THAT DINITZ, APPEARING ON US TELEVISION MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT ISRAEL WOULD COME UP WITH ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR RESUMPTION OF US INITIATIVE BEFORE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS CONVENED TO PREVENT DEADLOCK AT CONFERENCE. US OFFICIAL CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE HEARD NOTHING FROM ISRAEL. SOME OF THEM SUSPECT THAT

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JERUSALEM DOES NOT INTEND TO COME UP WITH CONCRETE NEW PROPOSALS AND IS APPARENTLY SEEKING TO IMPROVE ISRAEL'S PUBLIC RELATIONS IMAGE IN VIEW OF CRITICISM AGAINST HER AND EGYPT'S DECLARATION RE OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL. IN MEANTIME, SECRETARY WILL MEET WITH FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN APRIL 3 TO HEAR HIS PERSONAL VIEWS CONCERNING A "HALF-WAY" SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. IN SEPARATE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, MARGALIT ALSO CITES WASHINGTON SOURCES

AS EXPRESSING SURPRISE THAT POLICY REASSESSMENT FOCUSING ON
US POLICY RE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS ATTACHING
CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO ISSUE OF FUTURE OF WEST BANK.
NOTING THAT REASSESSMENT HAS LED TO DELAY IN
DECISION MAKING PROCESS CONCERNING US AID TO ISRAEL, INCLUD-
ING DELAY IN VISIT OF IDF TEAM, ISRAELI SOURCES
EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT COULD ESTABLISH
WORRISOME PRECEDENT, AND THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO
RESTORE EARLIER PROCEDURES.

5. MAARIV'S FEATURE STORY NOTES THAT USG HAS REJECTED
DEFENSE MINISTER PRERS REQUEST (MADE A FEW WEEKS AGO) TO COME
TO WASHINGTON, ASKING THAT VISIT BE DELAYED UNTIL
REASSESSMENT IS COMPLETED.

" OBSERVERS" REGARD THIS AS " CONCEALED PRESSURE," ADDING
THAT PERES IN PRESS INTERVIEW EARLIER THIS WEEK SAID
AS REGARDS FUTURE AID, " THINGS MUST BE EVALUATED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH REALITY. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE US
WILL GO BACK ON HER ASSURANCES OR PLUG HER EARS TO THE
VOICE OF ISRAELI LOGIC." POSTPONEMENT OF PERES VISIT WILL
BE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER. IT
MAY BE ASSUMED THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT CONSIDER " NEW PROPOSALS"
FOR A SETTLEMENT, IF WASHINGTON SHOWS A FIRM INTENTION TO
USE ISSUE OF AID TO ISRAEL IN ORDER TO EXERT PRESSURE ON
HER TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO EGYPT.
VELIOTES

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